



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September Supplemental Examinations

For a number of years, Supplemental Examinations were conducted in September by the Universities in behalf of students who had failed at the June examinations. During those years the smallness of the number of candidates writing in June made it possible to have their answer papers read and valued, and the results announced at a comparatively early date. As a result, those who failed had reasonable opportunity for making preparation for the Supplemental Examinations. In September the small number of candidates made it practicable to hold the examinations towards the end of the month, and there was no difficulty in having the results determined before the opening of the Universities.

Commencing in 1920, the September examinations have been conducted jointly by the Department of Education and the Universities. In 1922 over 6,200 candidates wrote on these examinations. In 1923, in spite of steps that were taken to limit the number, over 4,200 wrote. Owing to the steadily increasing number of candidates at the annual midsummer examinations, it has not been possible to complete the work of examining the answer papers at so early a date as in former years. Further, the increasing number of candidates at the Supplemental Examinations has made it necessary to begin these examinations at an earlier date. As a result, the time between the earliest possible announcement of the midsummer examination results and the commencement of the September examinations is too brief to permit of adequate preparation by the candidates.

In addition, there is difficulty in securing satisfactory Examiners, and the work of examining the answer papers cannot be completed in time for the opening of the Normal Schools and the Universities, thus causing much inconvenience both to the Normal Schools and to the Universities.

In view of these very serious considerations, as set forth above, the Minister, with the concurrence of the Universities has decided to discontinue the September Supplemental Examinations. At the same time he wishes teachers and prospective candidates to be assured that hereafter the utmost consideration will be given in dealing with special cases at the midsummer examinations. At these examinations there are candidates who, in spite of adequate preparation, fail to pass the Departmental tests. In some cases, teachers attribute failure to the fact that candidates find it impossible to write on the final examinations under

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normal conditions. There are also very many cases each year of students who through illness, accident, bereavement, or other circumstances beyond their control are prevented from writing on one or more papers, some even from attempting any papers. The Minister has decided to appoint a Board which will be charged with the responsibility of dealing with all such cases in order to determine which of the candidates can reasonably be considered to have reached the standard set by the existing Regulations. This Board will have before it the answer papers of each candidate with the valuations assigned by the Examiners, the reports of the teachers, and the reports of any special circumstances that may have had an adverse effect on the candidate's examination. Under these provisions, the Minister hopes that a full measure of justice will be secured for every candidate while, at the same time, the interests of the Universities and the Department will be properly guarded.

TORONTO, JANUARY 7TH, 1924.